



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Thursday, July 3, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety urges public to avoid stopping or slowing on freeways to view fireworks

Last year, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officers investigated several minor collisions that occurred as a result of motorists stopping in the emergency lane or even in regular traffic lanes **ON THE FREEWAY** to watch the Tempe Fireworks display from the 202 freeway. DPS Officers also issued a number of traffic citations to motorists who unlawfully stopped in these areas to view the fireworks.

During the 2007 display, several motorists stuck in slowing traffic on the exit ramps leading to Tempe Beach Park were watching the display from their vehicles and not paying attention to their driving. This distracted driving also caused many rear end collisions.

DPS advises people hoping to view fireworks displays to arrive at the events as early as possible. Motorists should also plan on taking alternate routes should freeway ramps close due to traffic congestion.

The fireworks displays across the Valley are visible from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on July 4th. The Arizona Department of Public Safety would like to remind motorists:

- **Do not stop or pull over on freeways to view fireworks displays.**
- **DPS will have an increased number of motor squads on the freeways to make sure motorists are not stopping to view fireworks.**
- **Unattended vehicles will be immediately removed.**
- **Drivers that are found to have stopped on the freeway to watch the fireworks will be cited.**
- **Impaired drivers will be aggressively targeted as well.**

DPS urges you to pay attention to the road and avoid freeway driving if possible during the evening hours of July 4th.

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